

1. What former BLM-Alaska employees were here in early June leading a international firefighting wildland tour? Firefighting officials from Mexico, Russia, and South Africa learned about Alaska fire and resource management techniques and visited the Alaska Fire Service in Fairbanks.

ALASKA People

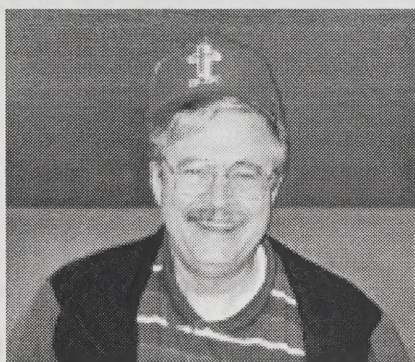
2. What are Paula Krebs and an interagency team (consisting of BLM, Forest Service, U of AK-Fairbanks, Agriculture and Forest Experiment Station) doing after their recent weeds management meeting?

June 1997

Pinkerton Gets Top Employee Award

It could have played like a scene in a movie—a devastating fire about to engulf a church. A frantic rush to save the building. State Troopers telling the weary pastor to prepare to move his flock.

One year ago this month, this scene and others played out in the Big Lake and Houston areas. When it was over, the 35,000-acre Big Lake fire had destroyed 400 structures; no lives were lost, but hundreds of lives were changed. Changed was Jerry Pinkerton, a BLM employee and pastor of the Big Lake Baptist Church. He was the pastor who had stayed with his church. He and his wife, Connie comforted and fed hundreds of fire victims and fire fighters during the ordeal. Pinkerton says, "The hardest part was listening to personal tragedies... people losing their homes, all their possessions... not having enough time to



Jerry Pinkerton

get pictures..." He went away from the experience with a better understanding of people functioning under adverse conditions. For his work, Pinkerton received a Federal Employee of the Year award for community service in May.

Unlike characters in the movies, Pinkerton gives credit to everyone involved, especially his wife, Connie. "My wife was vital, I

couldn't have done it without her. I relied on her knowledge and her organizational skills," he says.

His list of contributors runs long: church members, churches, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, Providence Heath System, Salvation Army, etc.

"The hardest part was listening to personal tragedies, people losing their homes, all their possessions ..."

Jerry Pinkerton

It all began the evening of June 2, 1996 when Pinkerton and his wife went home after a baseball game.

There had been earlier fires in the area, and he had seen BLM fire support planes in the sky. He didn't become alarmed until a parishioner called to say the fire was worse than first thought. Pinkerton and his wife then proceeded to the church, but the highway was blocked because of the fire danger. He convinced the State Troopers to let them pass since the church was only 100 yards beyond the blockade.

Once opened, the church served as a place of refuge for firefighters



Jerry Pinkerton and his wife, Connie, (right) serve food to firefighters during last year's Big Lake fire.

1. NIFC
2. Sharon
Director Les Rosenkrance, NIFC Public Affairs Chief Dave Vickery, and NIFC Volunteer Coordinator Connie Lewis.
advertise and solutions for weed management and developing an information brochure.

and people displaced by the fire. People sought out the rest rooms and telephones. "It was important that people let family and friends know where they were," says Pinkerton. He and his wife found spaghetti and cooked a spaghetti dinner. It was the beginning of more than 3,500 meals they would help serve at the church for the next 17 days.

By morning firefighters were sleeping in the church's pews. Later, a hot shot crew was sleeping in the yard because the church was too crowded. Every day brought its challenges. When the electricity went out temporarily and the toilets wouldn't work, portable toilets were brought in.

"When the fire got within a half mile of the church, people pitched in and cut the surrounding brush. "We were afraid the church would

catch on fire so we'd hose it down," says Pinkerton.

"We didn't have any organized system to feed or house people," he says. Until the Red Cross arrived, he relied on his wife to do most of the planning, ordering, and buying of food. Fire victims welcomed Red Cross blankets and food while the Pinkertons appreciated the well-coordinated operation. Pinkerton's wife, who works for Providence Health System, was able to arrange for the donation of hundreds of prepared meals by Providence Emergency Services. Anchorage churches did their part by preparing lunches.

When the Federal Emergency Management Agency showed up, Pinkerton was able to take a breath. But he had contracted pneumonia which kept him away from his BLM job for a couple of

Pinkerton, continued from front page

months. He downplays that, saying of the award, "It's an honor for the church; a lot of church members stood side by side to make it happen." On a personal note, he adds, "It was a great deal to be honored. I had no idea nor did I expect it. It's something a pastor does . . . something you're called upon to do."

Pinkerton says he's bivocational (he works two jobs, one as the branch chief for survey preparation and policy interpretation, and as pastor at the Big Lake Baptist Church). He began his career in 1960 as a survey aide for the U.S. Geological Survey. He fell in love with survey work, gave up ambitions to be a mathematics teacher, and has since worked for the federal government. Pinkerton has been the pastor of the Big Lake Baptist Church for 20 years.

What is the most important issue/challenge facing BLM for the upcoming century?



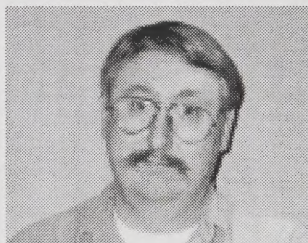
Paul Dunlevy, geologist
Joint Pipeline Office

BLM needs to retain its balanced approach to resource management, avoiding wide swings to either the development or preservation side of the equation.



Brenda Becker, realty asst.
Glennallen District Office

I think that the most pressing issue coming up will be Indian Country and how it will affect the people that live around that area. What will be BLM's role in this transition and will they be helping to enforce it?



Mike Zaidlicz, Iditarod Trail
Coordr, Anchorage District

BLM and other federal agencies need to increase the level of trust with its public. Too often, federal agencies are seen as barriers or impediments to public process. The general public (with help from the media) perceives the federal bureaucracy as being a malevolent, imperious organism designed to make life as difficult as possible. We need to show our agency as one that provides necessary services, with reasonable accommodation, in an efficient manner. It is essential that we make our contact with the public a positive experience.

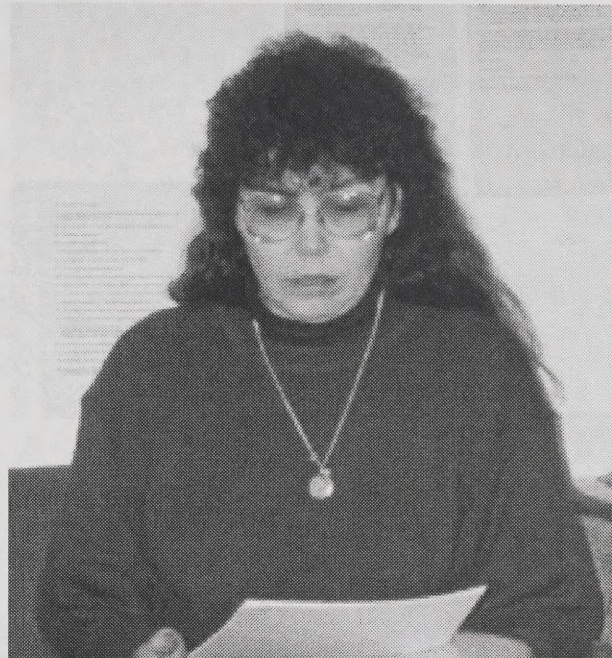


Nelda Garrett, Land Law Examr
Northern District Office

We in BLM have seen wonders with the computer age. BLM on the Internet!!! Who would have believed this ten years ago? So much information only a finger tip away. I am wondering what kind of permit (if any) will be required to travel from public land in Alaska to public land in space. I visualize BLM's land settlement program, and mining and recreation programs having a little different twist in space, but staff will quickly adjust to zooming around in their own computerized power machines to do field work. We will be known as the Bureau of Earth, Land and Space Management.

Employee Profile

Brenda Takes Horse, a Denaina Athabaskan, has worked the last 15 years for BLM as an Equal Employment Specialist, Editorial Assistant, and Contract Specialist among other jobs. As BLM-Alaska's first Native liaison specialist, Takes Horse says she's a nonconformist looking to improve BLM's relationship with the Natives. She reports directly to the State Director and the Associate State Director and is currently on a team to develop internal agency regulations to implement the Indian Self Determination/Self Governance Act. She has her hand in BLM's Resource Apprenticeship Program and the InterTribal Youth Practicum, which encourage Native youth employment in natural resource fields. Takes Horse is working with the Joint Pipeline Office and Alyeska on Section 29 (Native hire program) and regularly consults with the BLM's Native American Office in Santa Fe.



Brenda Takes Horse *Native Liaison Specialist*

How long have you lived in Alaska? **All together, 17 1/2 years.**

What do you enjoy most about your job? **Interacting with a wide variety of people within the agency and with tribal representatives.**

What is the last book you've read (or are currently reading)? **Shadows on the Koyukuk by Sydney Huntington.**

What is your idea of a good time? **Fishing.**

What was your favorite job? **Timber marking in the Big Horn National Forest.**

If you had one year to live, what would you do? **Quit work, record and compile traditional Denaina oral histories into a book.**

Name one thing which people would be surprised to know about you? **I attended college on a music scholarship.**

What does your "ultimate meal" consist of? **Moose ribs, baked potato, salad, and steamer clams.**

What bad habit would you like to break? **Procrastination.**

What is your favorite place? **Alaska.**

What is the most important thing you've learned since working for the BLM?
Change is inevitable.

Health



Feeling slow, tired, cold, and depressed? Have a poor memory, anemia, slow speech, dry and coarse skin? If you have just two of these symptoms you may have problems with your thyroid. This tiny gland located below your Adam's apple has enormous effect on your health. The thyroid regulates all aspects of your metabolism, from the rate which your heart beats to the speed at which you burn calories. A visit to your physician and a blood test can determine if your thyroid is working properly.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Letter

Workwise or OtherWise

BLM's team nomination for this year's Federal Employee of the Year included BLM, Alaska State Parks, Alaska Division of Lands and the Bristol Bay Native Association employees. They worked to resolve complex land entitlement issues for about 130 Native allotment applications within the Wood-Tikchik State Park so survey and land transfers could stay on schedule. Nominees were:

BLM

Sharon Warren	Steve Schmidt
Denny Benson	Rory Spurlock
Craig Frichtl	John Sroufe
Scott Guyer	Dot Tideman
Steve Hamrick	Danny West
Jerry Lewis	Patricia LaFramboise

Bristol Bay Native Assn.

Patrick Chiklak, Jr.
Gusty Chythlook, Sr.
Dugan Nielsen

AK State Div. of Parks

Dan Hourihan

AK State Div. of Lands

Julie Murrel	Terry Peterson
Carol Shobe	

Terrie Evarts, land law examiner, is encouraging women veterans to register as charter members to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial by calling 800-222-2294. The memorial, which is being constructed in Washington, D.C., recognizes the contributions of servicewomen throughout our nation's history. A dedication is scheduled for Oct. 18, 1997. Call

Terrie at 271-5630 for more information or visit their web site: <http://www.wimsa.org/pub/wimsa>

A Department of Interior all employees meeting is scheduled with Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt on July 11 in Anchorage. Babbitt will be in Alaska to visit the National Petroleum Reserve.



Right to Left-Rory Spurlock, Dugan Nielsen, Bristol Bay Native Assn; Patricia LaFramboise, Steve Cummings, Sylvia Hale, John Sroufe attending the Federal Employee of the Year awards ceremony held at the Egan Center in Anchorage, May 8, 1997.

Alaska People

Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599
tele. 907.271.3335

Return if not delivered in 10 days.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS/Penalty for Private Use \$300

Danielle Allen	Editor/Writer/Design/Layout
Carol Belenski	Submission
Dwayne Richardson	Photo manipulation
Andy Williams	Submission
Rob McWhorter	Submission

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225